

News Release

UMC gets another Online Degree approved

By Christo Robberts on Tuesday, February 14, 2006

Crookston, MN—University of Minnesota Board of Regents approved UMC's request to deliver another degree entirely online. The Bachelor of Manufacturing Management a (BMM), a 4-year degree that is career-oriented was approved for online delivery on Friday at the Board of Regents meeting in Minneapolis. The BMM degree prepares students to manage people and machines in a manufacturing environment it was approved last week for online delivery and awaits higher learning commission accreditation approval.

Dr. Christo Robberts, Bachelor of Manufacturing Management (BMM) Program Director at the University of Minnesota, Crookston says this is a great move for UMC and one that will allow us to respond to needs of large corporate clients like the railways. "UMC is the only campus in the U of M system that is delivering undergraduate degrees online!" "This online degree suits the needs of people with current academic credit as well as those currently studying at participating 2-year institutions." Dr. Robberts says that there are 5 technical colleges in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area that have formed a consortium and they are long time partners with UMC. "We have been articulating degrees with these schools for a few years now, this online mode of delivery is what the students want and they are looking to UMC who has the technology experience to deliver." Robberts says that the BMM program, once accredited by the Higher Learning Commission has the capability to go overseas and serve new audiences not able to physically attend a traditional on campus class.

"Online learning is creating new opportunities for the University of Minnesota, Crookston," said UMC's Chancellor, Chuck Casey. UMC's online enrollment has grown over 151% in the past four years. UMC's online offerings have grown from just a handful of online courses each semester to nearly 40 courses including the first Online Bachelor's degree in the University of Minnesota system, and now the Bachelor of Manufacturing Management degree too is approved by U of M Board of Regents for online delivery.

Students can take the online courses from anywhere via the internet to join the instructor and fellow classmates in a virtual classroom. UMC has seen a large number of non-traditional students taking advantage of the flexibility and convenience of online learning. "Nearly 70% of our online learners are women," says Christopherson, "and many of them are returning to school to finish a degree after taking a break from their education to have a family and start their careers. The age of our students range from 16 to 65 with a good portion being 35 to 45 years-of-age, most have a job they are continuing to hold while they attend school and also have a family with all the responsibilities of parenting included. These are hard-working, dedicated students that are really taking their learning seriously and wouldn't have been able to return to school in a traditional, campus classroom setting." "The greatest advantage with online courses is that you can work and still participate in class assignments according to your schedule", said one online student. Online learning allows these students the chance to complete a 4-year degree in order to fulfill their educational goals.

UMC is the first campus in the U of M system that has an undergraduate degree available online. In addition to the BMM degree the Bachelor of Applied Health degree online also provides students a convenient and flexible alternative for working adults and part-time students who have relevant work experience in the healthcare industry and are interested in completing a 4-year degree.

To learn more about UMC's online degree(s) and courseware please log onto the Center for Adult Learning website.

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